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2 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contacts with the Congress Concerning Amendments
to the Federal Employees Compensation Act

1. On this date, I attempted to reach five members of the House Select Subcommittee on Labor which is considering proposed amendments to the Federal Employees Compensation Act (H.R. 4478 and H.R. 10721-- the latter being the Administration's proposal). Hearings on this legislation have been scheduled to begin next Wednesday, 7 September 1965, with the Director of the Bureau of Employees Compensation as the lead witness. It is my understanding that a number of employee unions have also asked to be heard. The members of the Subcommittee are:

Representative James G. O'Hara (D., Mich.)
Acting Chairman

Dominick V. Daniels (D., N.J.)
Roman C. Pucinski (D., Ill.)
Sam M. Gibbons (D., Fla.)

John M. Ashbrook (R., Ohio)
Albert H. Quie (R., Minn.)
Edward J. Gurney (R., Fla.)

Counsel - James Harrison

2. A number of these members had either left town for the holiday weekend or were involved in the poverty bill conference. However, I learned that Representative Ogden Reid, who had been a member of this Subcommittee, has transferred to another Subcommittee and that Representative Gurney has taken his place on the Select Subcommittee. I spoke with Mr. Gurney at some length concerning this legislation. It was clear that the Congressman knew little about the Federal Employees Compensation Act even in a general sense and, therefore, was completely unfamiliar with any of the technical

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aspects of the legislation. However, when I pointed out the two particular areas of our interest, i.e., the matter of a dollar limitation on FECA benefits and comparable provisions for CIA (and Foreign Service) annuitants to those now accorded Civil Service annuitants, he seemed to pick up the points quite well. I explained to Mr. Gurney, as I will explain to all persons contacted on the Hill, that the Agency is not in a position to ask for any formal action on its behalf in this regard since H.R. 10721, as an Administration bill, had technically been cleared by the Executive Branch. However, we do feel that certain of the members who are aware of our situation in a general sense would be interested in having some background information which might permit them to focus a little more clearly on all of the ramifications involved in these amendments. Mr. Gurney indicated that he understood this completely. He was most appreciative of our bringing this matter to his attention and asked that he be provided with some blind memo material which he could use in studying the matter further and in the hearings of the Subcommittee. I told the Congressman this material was in the process of preparation and I expected to have it in his hands tomorrow.

3. Other Congressmen whose offices were contacted were Representatives Carey, Brademas, Sickles and Bates. Those who will be in Washington on Friday will be contacted then and we will attempt to reach the balance of the members on Tuesday.

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25X1 5. In conjunction with the Office of Personnel, we are preparing back up material [] which might be given to these members who are interested in focusing their attention on this legislation.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

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